

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W
-----087185 221827Z /50

R 221743Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9003
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USNMR SHAPE
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: ELECTION AFTERMATH -- ROBERT FABRE RESIGNS AS
LEFT RADICAL PRESIDENT

SUMMARY. REDUCED TO TEN DEPUTIES IN THE NEW ASSEMBLY,
THE LEFT RADICAL PARTY (MRG) HAS ALREADY BEGUN THE SEARCH
FOR ANOTHER POLITICAL STRATEGY, A SEARCH WHICH THREATENS
TO SPLIT IF NOT DESTROY THE ORGANIZATION. PARTY PRESI-
DENT ROBERT FABRE LOST NO TIME MARCH 19 IN DECLARING HIM-
SELF RELEASED FROM FURTHER COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON PRO-
GRAM. ADVERSE REACTION TO THIS STATEMENT BY OTHER PARTY
LEADERS PLUS THE MRG'S GENERAL ELECTORAL FAILURE LED
FABRE TO RESIGN AS PRESIDENT ON MARCH 21. HE WILL CON-
TINUE TO DIRECT PARTY AFFAIRS IN THE ROLE OF PRESIDENT,
HOWEVER, UNTIL THE SPECIAL MRG CONGRESS MAY 20-21.
END SUMMARY.

1. FABRE RESIGNS: THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF THE MRG MET
MARCH 20 TO DETERMINE PARTY STRATEGY IN THE FACE OF EX-
TREMELY DISAPPOINTING ELECTORAL RESULTS (THE MRG WAS
REDUCED FROM 13 TO 10 DEPUTIES AND WON 2.1 PERCENT OF
THE POPULAR VOTE). THE MEETING RESULTED IN THE RESIGNA-
TION OF PRESIDENT ROBERT FABRE, WHO HAS LED THE PARTY
SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1972, BUT NOW FINDS HIMSELF IN
OPEN CONFLICT WITH THE MRG'S LEFT WING. (IN FACT, ONLY
A PARTY CONGRESS CAN ACCEPT FABRE'S RESIGNATION; HE THUS
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WILL REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL MAY). THE TWO MAJOR CURRENTS
CAN BE GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS:

- THOSE LIKE FABRE WHO FAVOR A MORE AUTONOMOUS
POSITION, INDEPENDENT FROM THE PS AND PCF AND
EVEN WILLING TO PROVIDE "CONDITIONAL" SUPPORT
IN PARLIAMENT FOR THE MAJORITY ON CERTAIN RE-
FORMS;
- OTHERS, LED BY DEPUTY AND MAYOR OF LA ROCHELLE
MICHEL CREPEAU, WHO ARGUE FOR CONTINUED ADHER-
ENCE TO THE UNION OF THE LEFT STRATEGY.

2. A QUESTION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS: THE ISSUE WILL
BE DECIDED AT A SPECIAL CONGRESS ON MAY 20-21 IN PARIS
WHICH PROMISES TO BE CONSIDERABLY MORE LIVELY THAN THE

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MRG'S DECEMBER 1977 AFFAIR (PARIS 36293). FABRE IS

LIKELY TO BE OPPOSED BY MOST OF THE OTHER LEFT RADICAL DEPUTIES WHO ARE DEPENDENT ON SOCIALIST SUPPORT FOR THEIR POLITICAL EXISTENCE. CREPEAU, FOR EXAMPLE, IS IN A MINORITY POSITION WITHIN HIS OWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (13 MRG, 13 PS, 11 PCF) AND HAS ALREADY SAID PUBLICLY THAT HIS ONLY CHOICE WOULD BE TO JOIN THE PS, SHOULD THE MRG CHANGE ITS POLITICAL ORIENTATION. THE SOCIALISTS HAVE KEPT OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE THUS FAR, BUT HAVE ACTIVELY RECRUITED MRG TALENT IN THE PAST AND WOULD PROBABLY ALLOW RANKING LEFT RADICAL DEFECTORS (E.G., CREPEAU, /RANCOIS LONCLE, ROGER-GERARD SCHWARTZENBERG) IMMEDIATE ENTRY INTO UPPER LEVELS OF PARTY MACHINERY.

3. OTHER MRG LEADERS, SUCH AS GUY GENNESSEAU, PIERRE BRACQUE AND MANUEL DIAZ, WILL ARGUE FOR A PARTY LINE CLOSER TO "TRUE RADICALISM", MEANING AT LEAST CLEAR SEPARATION FROM THE PS, PCF AND ORTHODOX SOCIALISM, IF NOT AN EVENTUAL SWING TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE POLITICAL CENTER. THIS FACTION OF THE MRG HAS LITTLE IF ANY ELECTORAL STAKE IN THE UNION OF THE LEFT AND APPARENTLY SEES A ROSIER FUTURE IN A MORE LIBERAL, CENTRIST-ORIENTED STRATEGY. THE DEBATE WILL BE HOT AND COMPROMISE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS09826
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-0707
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780337/aaaabfgg.tel
Line Count: 194
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 615bc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3238825
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION AFTERMATH -- ROBERT FABRE RESIGNS AS LEFT RADICAL PRESIDENT SUMMARY. REDUCED TO TEN DEPUTIES IN THE NEW ASSEM
TAGS: PINT, FR, (FABRE, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/615bc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014